

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be re-examined.

The August 23, 2004, Office Action in the above-identified application rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 on various grounds under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 3 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This amendment cancels Claims 2 and 3 and adds the subject matter thereof to Claim 1. As a result, Claim 1 is now previously presented Claim 3 in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 10-16 have also been canceled. All of the other claims remaining in this application (4-9) all depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that since Claim 1 is allowable, Claims 4-9 are also allowable.

In view of the enclosed amendments and the foregoing remarks, applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing this claim and passing this application to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

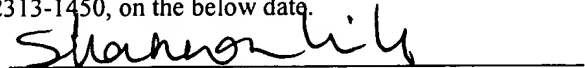
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: 10/8/04



GSK:ejh

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